

January 20, 2001

9625 '01 FEB -5 10:13

U.S. Food & Drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

Docket #98P-0151/CP1

Dear Sirs:

Please grant Docket #98P-0151/CP1 to prohibit the slaughter of downed animals.

Animals who are too sick or injured to even stand should not be allowed to enter the human food chain.

In addition to posing an increased risk for bacterial contamination, there is evidence that some downed animals may be afflicted with a form of BSE.

It is impossible to move downed animals humanely, and they are typically pushed with tractors or dragged with chains - inhumane processes which cause injuries ranging from bruises and abrasions to broken bones and torn ligaments.

Downed animals comprise a very small percentage of animals slaughtered, and prohibiting their marketing will cause no undue economic hardship.

Industry experts have estimated that 90% of downed animals can be prevented with better care and handling. Removing the market for downed animals will provide an incentive to industry to prevent downed animals in the first place.

I am glad that the U.S.D.A. has said that they will no longer buy meat from downed cows for Federal programs. Perhaps the rest of us will be also allowed this consideration.

Please grant this petition as soon as possible. Thank you.

Yours truly,

M. Waldron

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